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I

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4219

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to eliminate the 15 percent reduction in payment rates under the prospective payment system for home health services under the Medicare Program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 6, 2000

Mr. WATKINS (for himself, Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. HILLEARY, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. BALDACCI, Mr. GOODE, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. BARCIA, Mr. COOK, Mr. HOUGHTON, Mr. HAYES, Mr. METCALF, Mr. HEFLEY, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. SWEENEY, Mr. FROST, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BALLENGER, Mr. EVANS, Mr. WALSH, Ms. LEE, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. MCINTOSH, Mr. SCHAFER, Mr. BASS, Mr. LAFALCE, Mr. RAHALL, and Mr. WEYGAND) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to eliminate the 15 percent reduction in payment rates under the prospective payment system for home health services under the Medicare Program.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the "Home Health Fairness
3 Act of 2000".

4 SEC. 2. ELIMINATION OF 15 PERCENT REDUCTION IN PAY-
5 MENT RATES UNDER THE MEDICARE PRO-
6 SPECTIVE PAYMENT SYSTEM FOR HOME
7 HEALTH SERVICES.

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1895(b)(3)(A) of the So-
9 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395fff(b)(3)(A)), as amend-
10 ed by sections 302(b) and 303(f) of the Medicare, Med-
11 icaid, and SCHIP Balanced Budget Refinement Act of
12 1999 (113 Stat. 1501A-359, 361), as enacted into law
13 by section 1000(a)(6) of Public Law 106-113, is amended
14 to read as follows:

15 “(A) INITIAL BASIS.—Under such system
16 the Secretary shall provide for computation of
17 a standard prospective payment amount (or
18 amounts). Such amount (or amounts) shall init-
19 ially be based on the most current audited cost
20 report data available to the Secretary and shall
21 be computed in a manner so that the total
22 amounts payable under the system for the 12-
23 month period beginning on the date the Sec-
24 retary implements the system shall be equal to
25 the total amount that would have been made if
26 the system had not been in effect and if section

1 1861(v)(1)(L)(ix) had not been enacted. Each
2 such amount shall be standardized in a manner
3 that eliminates the effect of variations in rel-
4 ative case mix and area wage adjustments
5 among different home health agencies in a
6 budget neutral manner consistent with the case
7 mix and wage level adjustments provided under
8 paragraph (4)(A). Under the system, the Sec-
9 retary may recognize regional differences or dif-
10 ferences based upon whether or not the services
11 or agency are in an urbanized area.”.

12 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
13 subsection (a) shall take effect as if included in the enact-
14 ment of the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Balanced
15 Budget Refinement Act of 1999 (Public Law 106–113).

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